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(54) **GENERATION OF A CLOUD APPLICATION IMAGE**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***G06F 17/30174*** (2013.01)

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USPC 707/726
See application file for complete search history.

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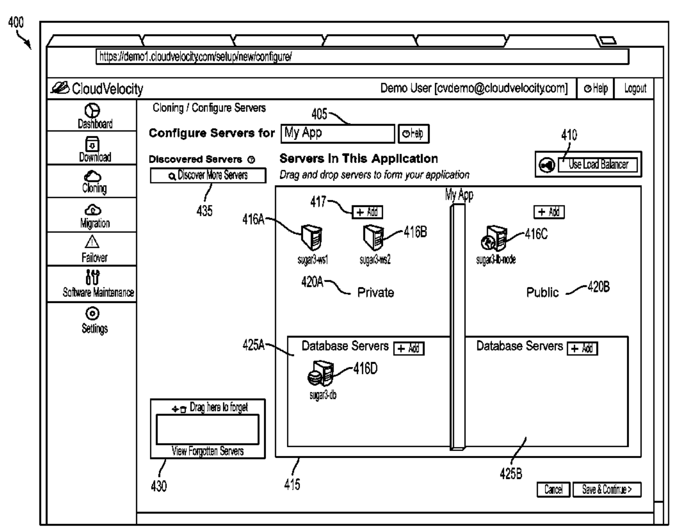
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A software application designed to operate within an enterprise system is modified to operate properly within a system of a third-party provider. In one embodiment, a site manager obtains pertinent information about the software application from the source systems that make up the enterprise system and provides it to a cloud manager, and the cloud manager uses the information to generate a modified version of the software application for use on the cloud provider. The modification may include operations such as driver injection, file system mounting customization, customization of hostname-to-network address mappings, and boot image creation.

18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



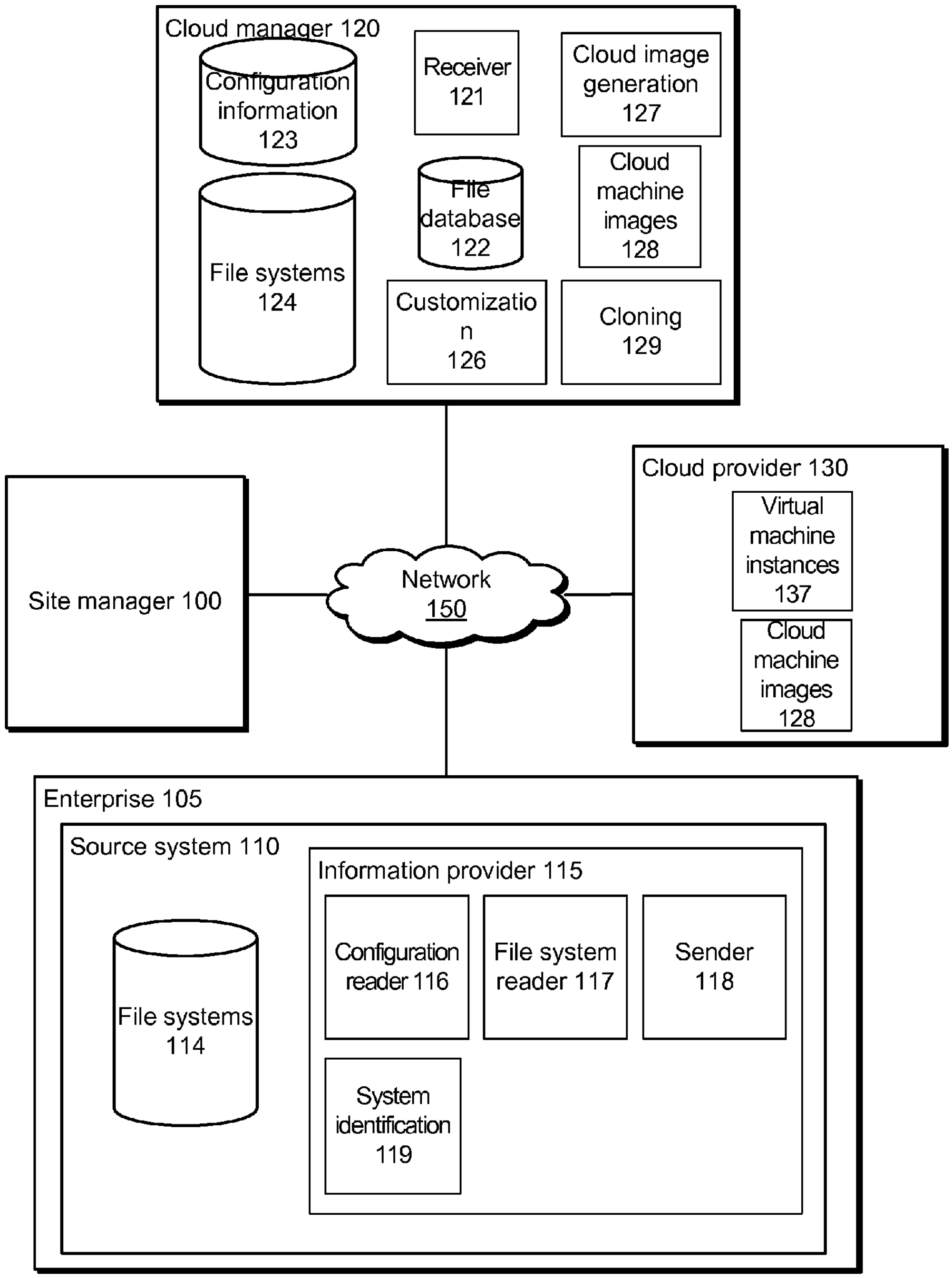

Cloud manager 120
Configuration information 123
Receiver 121
Cloud image generation 127
File systems 124
File database 122
Cloud machine images 128
Customizatio
n
126
Cloning 129
Site manager 100
Network 150
Cloud provider 130
Virtual machine instances 137
Cloud machine images 128
Enterprise 105
Source system 110
Information provider 115
File systems 114
Configuration reader 116
File system reader 117
Sender 118
System identification 119

FIG. 1

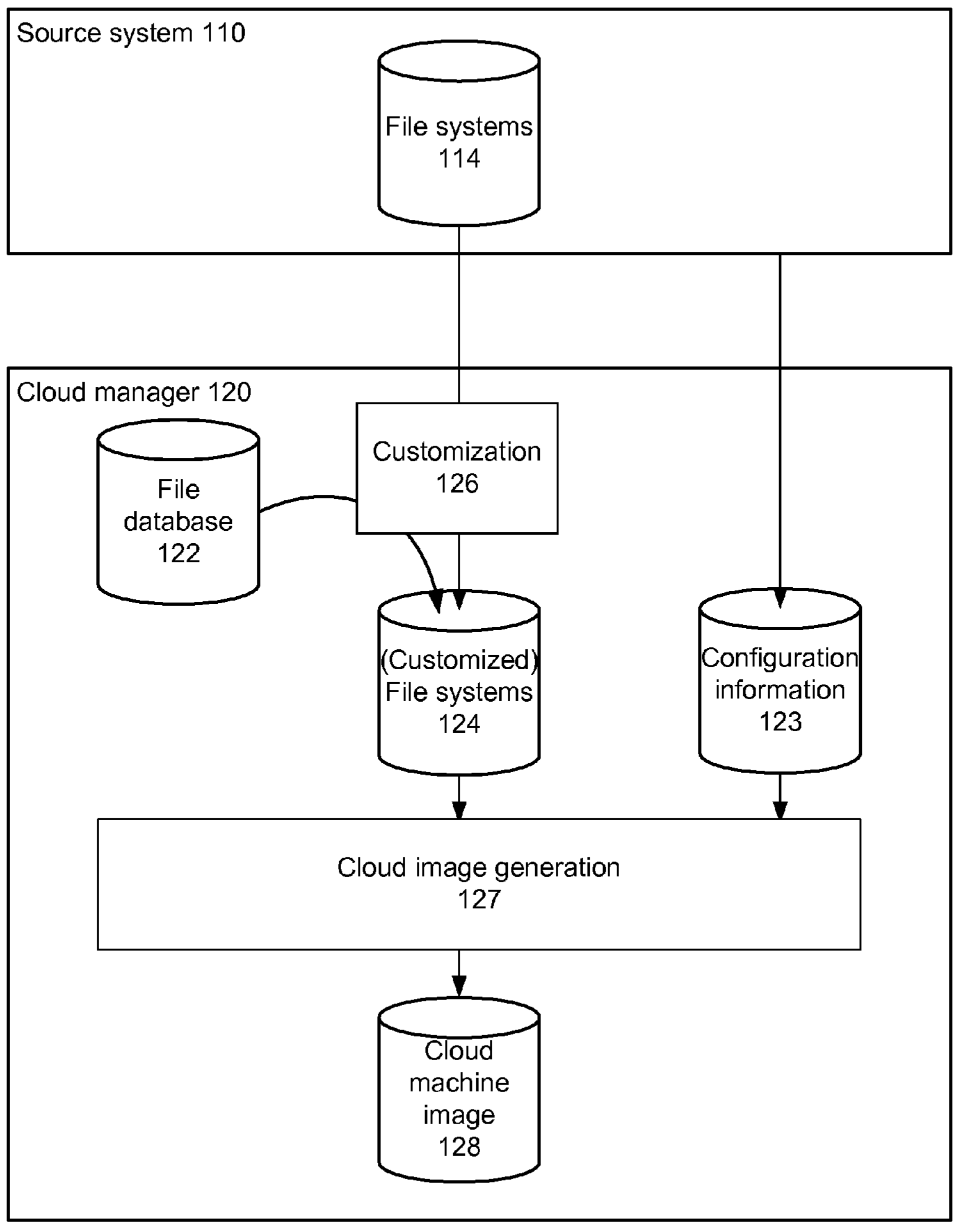

Source system 110
File systems 114
Cloud manager 120
File database 122
Customization 126
(Customized) File systems 124
Configuration information 123
Cloud image generation 127
Cloud machine image 128

FIG. 2

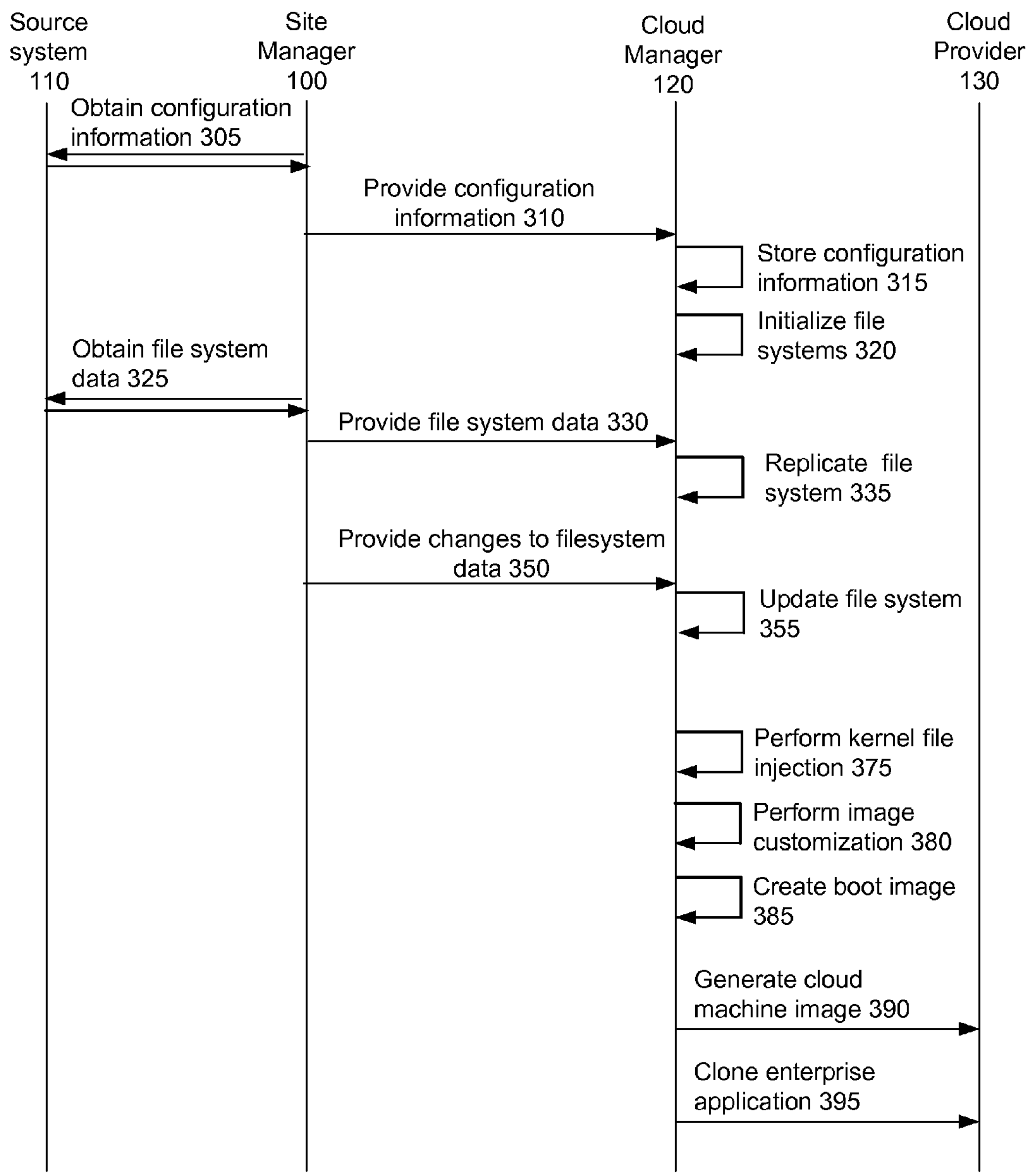

Source system 110
Site Manager 100
Cloud Manager 120
Cloud Provider 130
Obtain configuration information 305
Provide configuration information 310
Store configuration information 315
Initialize file systems 320
Obtain file system data 325
Provide file system data 330
Replicate file system 335
Provide changes to filesystem data 350
Update file system 355
Perform kernel file injection 375
Perform image customization 380
Create boot image 385
Generate cloud machine image 390
Clone enterprise application 395

FIG. 3

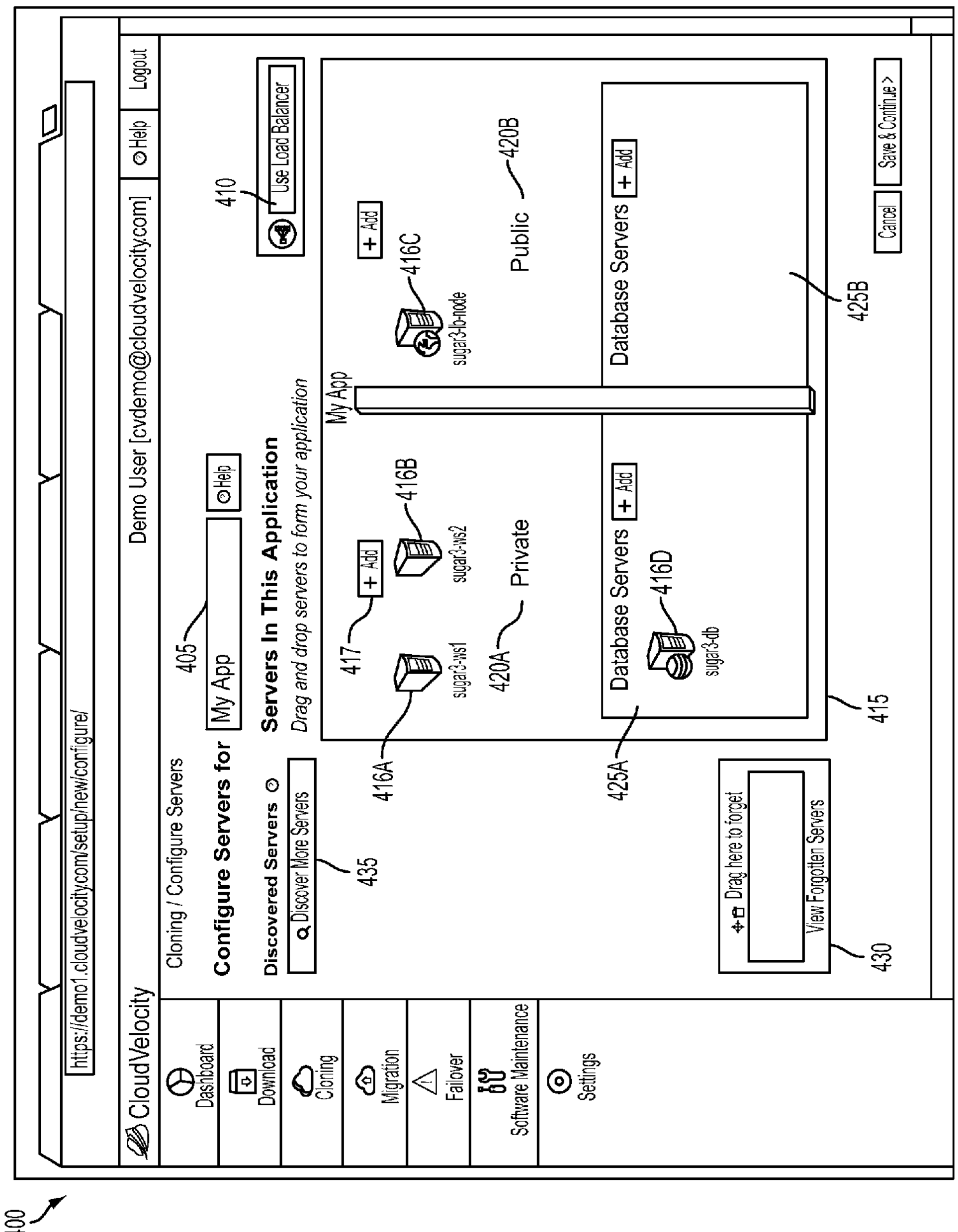

400
https://demo1.cloudvelocity.com/setup/new/configure/
CloudVelocity
Demo User [cvdemo@cloudvelocity.com]
Help
Logout
Dashboard
Download
Cloning
Migration
Failover
Software Maintenance
Settings
Cloning / Configure Servers
Configure Servers for
My App
405
Help
410
Use Load Balancer
Discovered Servers
Discover More Servers
435
Servers In This Application
Drag and drop servers to form your application
My App
417
+ Add
416A
sugar3-ws1
416B
sugar3-ws2
420A
Private
416C
sugar3-lb-node
Public
420B
Database Servers
+ Add
416D
sugar3-db
425A
425B
415
Drag here to forget
View Forgotten Servers
430
Cancel
Save & Continue >

FIG. 4A

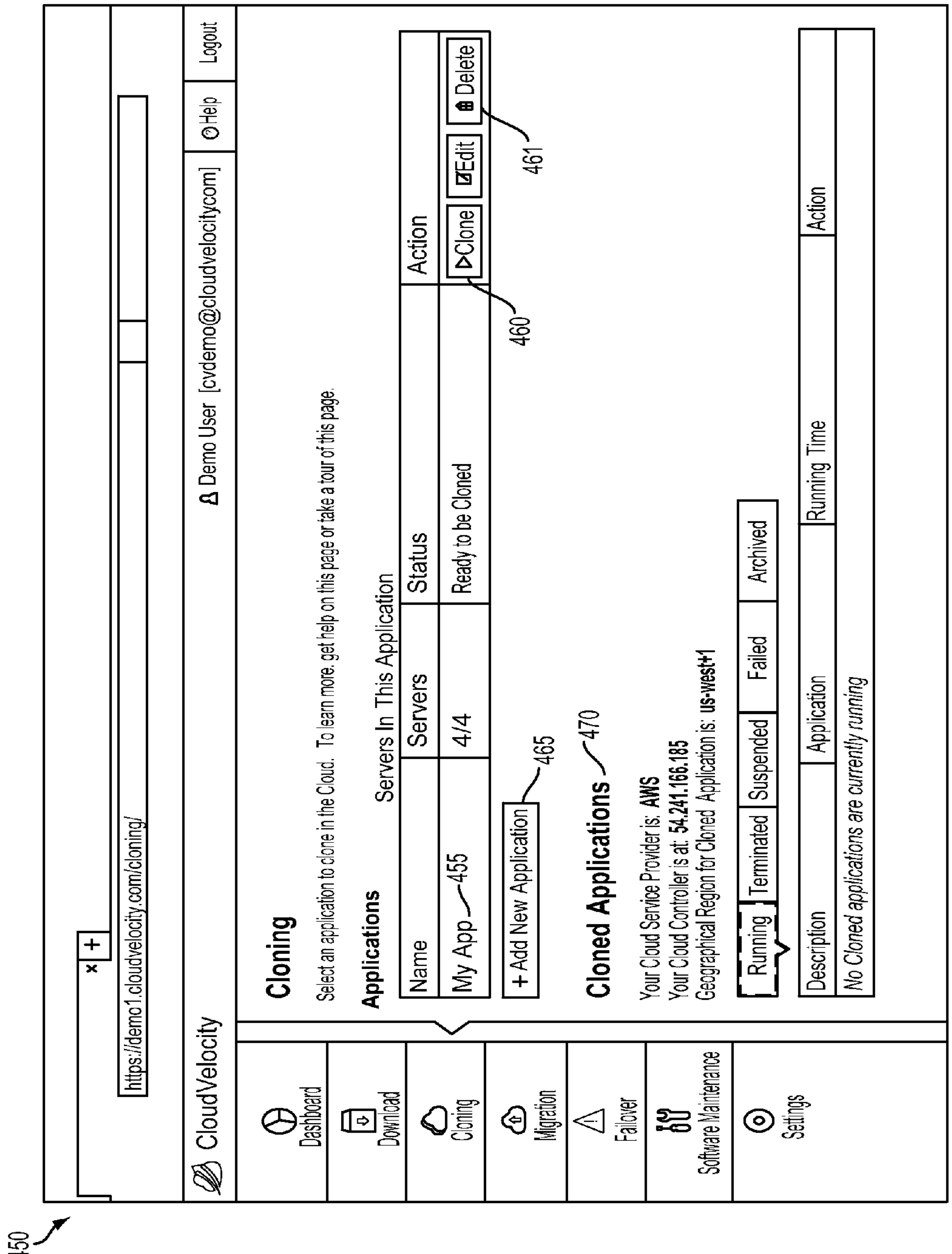

450
https://demo1.cloudvelocity.com/cloning/
CloudVelocity
Demo User [cvdemo@cloudvelocitycom]
Help
Logout
Dashboard
Download
Cloning
Migration
Failover
Software Maintenance
Settings
Cloning
Select an application to clone in the Cloud. To learn more, get help on this page or take a tour of this page.
Applications
Servers In This Application
Name
Servers
Status
Action
My App
455
4/4
Ready to be Cloned
Clone
Edit
Delete
460
461
+ Add New Application
465
Cloned Applications
470
Your Cloud Service Provider is: AWS
Your Cloud Controller is at: 54.241.166.185
Geographical Region for Cloned Application is: us-west+1
Running
Terminated
Suspended
Failed
Archived
Description
Application
Running Time
Action
No Cloned applications are currently running

FIG. 4B

GENERATION OF A CLOUD APPLICATION IMAGE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The disclosed embodiments relate generally to server-based applications. In particular, the disclosed embodiments are directed to automatically reconfiguring computer software applications hosted by a given enterprise system to be hosted by a different system, such as that of a cloud provider.

BACKGROUND

Many companies and other organizations have created computer software applications designed to be hosted on their own enterprise systems. This requires the organizations to commit considerable resources to the design and maintenance of the enterprise systems that host the applications. For example, the organizations must employ many information technology professionals to ensure that the networks, storage systems, security settings, and other components of the enterprise systems continue to provide the proper levels of performance and security.

As an alternative model, a third-party provider may make its own computing systems available for hosting the organizations' applications. In this model, the third-party provider (hereinafter referred to as a "cloud provider") supplies the hardware and software systems that provide the computing, storage, and network capacity required by the software applications, configures system settings to provide proper data security, and the like. Thus, the third-party provider is responsible for the technological and administrative details necessary for the applications to properly function, freeing the organizations from the need to attend to such details. The organizations can then supply the applications to the third-party provider for hosting, compensating the third-party provider according to the resources consumed, such as a certain amount of storage space, or a certain amount of computing power.

However, it can be complex, labor-intensive, and error-prone for an organization to modify its existing applications for migration to a third party cloud computing system so that they will function properly on the systems of the third-party providers. That is, the computing environment—e.g., hardware devices, operating system types and versions, network settings, and the like—of the third-party provider's system may differ significantly from that of the organization's enterprise computing systems, and hence an application will likely need to be significantly modified if it is to function properly in the third-party environment. For example, the operating system version made available by the third-party provider might differ from that of the enterprise system, leading (for example) to an unavailability of libraries expected by the application. Similarly, the Internet protocol (IP) addresses of the third-party provider will differ from those of the enterprise system. The names of the storage devices, and system host names, will likely differ, as well. Thus, applications that make reference to these values will cease to function properly when hosted by the third-party provider.

SUMMARY

An "enterprise-based application," which includes both the software specifically written to implement the application and the operating system and other software constituting the environment in which it executes, is originally

designed to operate within an enterprise system. The enterprise-based application is automatically modified to operate properly within a system of a third-party provider (referred to hereinafter as the "cloud provider"). In one embodiment, a cloud manager obtains pertinent information about the enterprise-based application from the source systems that make up the enterprise system and uses the information to generate a modified version of the enterprise-based application for use on the cloud provider.

The enterprise-based application is constructed to service a user's client device through the various interactions between the source systems in the enterprise system, such as the providing of information by a database server system, and the providing of a web page by a web server system. The cloud manager replicates the environment of the enterprise system using the information obtained from the source systems and performs a number of modifications of the enterprise-based application by modifying the replicated environments of the source systems that together make up the enterprise-based application.

In one embodiment, the modifications of the enterprise-based application include kernel file injection. Based on an operating system type and version of the source systems of the enterprise system, and optionally based on the cloud provider, kernel files required for the enterprise-based application to function properly on the cloud provider are identified, and these kernel files are then added to the replicated environments of the source systems.

In one embodiment, the modifications of the enterprise-based application include file system mounting customization. A mount table file is modified to use a unique identifier for a file system of the source system; the unique identifier may be generated and stored within metadata of the file system. When the corresponding operating system begins execution and the mount table file is analyzed to establish the file system mount points, the unique identifier is located within the file system metadata, thereby correlating the file system with the proper device name of the underlying storage, regardless of whether the device names differ between the source system and the cloud provider.

In one embodiment, the modifications of the enterprise-based application include customization of hostname-to-network address mappings. Source systems of the enterprise that are relevant to the application are identified, and a mapping between hostnames and IP addresses of the source systems within the enterprise are generated and stored in a mapping file accessed by the operating system during initialization. In one embodiment, the relevant source systems are identified at least in part by the users using a user interface that permits users to add and remove source systems and to specify their network visibility and other properties.

In one embodiment, the modifications of the enterprise-based application include boot image creation. The target operating system on the cloud provider is compared with the operating system type and version of source system(s) of the enterprise system to identify whether the operating system (s) of the source systems is not compatible with the cloud provider, e.g., sufficiently old. If so, then a set of newer boot files is copied to a boot directory (e.g., "/boot") of the replicated environments of the source systems. Additionally, in one embodiment a configuration file of a boot loader is modified to identify the device on which the root file system partition is located using the unique identifier of the file system.

With the environments of the pertinent source systems replicated and modified, the application may be executed on

the cloud provider by creating an instance of each of the pertinent source systems within a virtual machine of the cloud provider. Further, multiple independent instances of the application may be made available to different users by creating, for each user, a set of instances of the pertinent source systems.

The features and advantages described in this summary and the following detailed description are not all-inclusive. Many additional features and advantages will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the drawings, specification, and claims hereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows a system environment in which an existing enterprise-based application of an organization is modified to be hosted by a cloud provider, according to one embodiment.

FIG. **2** illustrates the data flow that takes place when generating cloud machine images for a source system using the components of FIG. **1**, according to one embodiment.

FIG. **3** illustrates the interactions that take place between the various components of FIG. **1** when generating a cloud machine image allowing an enterprise-based application to be hosted by the cloud provider, according to one embodiment.

FIGS. **4**A-**4**B respectively illustrate example graphical user interfaces used in the process of replicating an enterprise-based application on a cloud provider and creating instances of that enterprise-based application, according to one embodiment.

The figures depict various embodiments of the present invention for purposes of illustration only. One skilled in the art will readily recognize from the following description that other alternative embodiments of the structures and methods illustrated herein may be employed without departing from the principles of the invention described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

System Architecture

FIG. **1** shows a system environment in which an existing enterprise-based application of an organization is modified in order to be hosted by a cloud provider, according to one embodiment. Illustrated in FIG. **1** are an enterprise **105**, an optional site manager **100**, a cloud provider **130**, and a cloud manager **120**. The enterprise **105** represents the computing system environment for which the existing enterprise-based application was designed, and the cloud provider **130** represents a software hosting environment provided by a third party. The optional site manager **100** communicates information about the enterprise-based application (which includes the environment on the enterprise **105**) to the cloud manager **120**, which replicates the enterprise-based application on the cloud provider **130**, including the modifications needed for the enterprise-based application to operate properly on the cloud provider **130**.

More specifically, the enterprise **105** includes any number of source systems **110**. The source systems **110** represent physical computing systems—such as web servers and database servers—along with the network infrastructure that connects the source systems to each other and to external client systems. In one embodiment, the source systems **110** may also represent virtual systems defined within a virtual machine server running within the enterprise **105**. The collective actions of the different source systems **110** together constitute the enterprise-based application that clients can access. For example, the actions of a database server to provide requested information, and of a web server to provide a web page graphically embodying the provided information, together might produce a particular web page of a web-based enterprise application.

The individual source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** have given hardware and software characteristics. For example, each source system **110** has a certain amount of primary memory (RAM), a given number of processors (and/or cores within a single processor), and a set of networks to which the computer has a connection (represented by, e.g., their IP addresses). A given source system **110** also has file system characteristics, such as file system type (e.g., the ext2 or ext3 file system types for the LINUX operating system) and capacity (e.g., 2 TB).

A source system **110** comprises one or more file systems **114**. The file systems **114** may contain data used or generated by the enterprise-based application, such as configuration or log files, or files created by and loaded by a database server and storing customer information, for example. The file systems **114** may also contain the code that is specific to the enterprise-based application, such as a compiled binary directly executable by a processor, intermediate compiled code executable by a virtual machine (e.g., JAVA code), scripting code interpreted by an interpreter for languages such as PYTHON or RUBY, or the like. The file systems **114** further contain the files making up the operating system environment of the source system **110**, such as the operating system kernel or link libraries, and which constitute the environment of the enterprise-based application.

In one embodiment, the source systems **110** also comprise an information provider module **115** provided by the organization responsible for the site manager **100** and the cloud manager **120**. The information provider module **115** of a source system **110** forms a network connection with the site manager **100** (or directly with the cloud manager **120**) and provides it with information about the source system that is used to generate a cloud machine image of the source system **110**. The information provider module **115** comprises submodules that perform operations such as identifying the source systems **110**, obtaining the information about the source systems, and providing that information to the cloud manager **120**.

Specifically, in one embodiment the information provider module **115** comprises a configuration reader module **116**, a file system reader module **117**, a sender module **118**, and a system identification module **119**.

The system identification module **119** identifies the set of source systems **110** within the enterprise **105** that are candidates for replication on the cloud provider **130**. The system identification module **119** analyzes communication patterns within the enterprise **105** to identify active source systems. For example, the system identification module **119** can analyze the information provided by an operating system utility such as "netstat" to identify source systems **110**, and can further automatically install the information provider module **115** on such systems. Alternatively and/or additionally, authorized users of the enterprise **105** can manually identify the relevant source systems **110** and install the information provider module **115** on those systems. In one embodiment, login information (e.g., usernames and passwords) of one or more of the source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** is provided to the system identification module **119** so that the system identification module can obtain the permissions necessary for this analysis.

The configuration reader module **116** obtains configuration information about the hardware and software characteristics of the source systems **110** within the enterprise **105**. In one embodiment, the configuration information for a source system **110** includes the amount of primary memory, the number of processors, the available networks, and the type and capacity of each file system.

The file system reader module **117** obtains file system data—that is, the data stored by the file systems **114**. For example, the file system reader module **117** can obtain a listing of every file within a file system, along with the data stored by those files, using local disk read system calls.

The file system reader module **117** can also determine a difference between the current state and a previous state of the file systems **114**. For example, the file system reader module **117** can identify files that have changed since a given previous file system state (along with the data of the changed files), the files that have been added (along with the data of the added files), and the files that have been deleted.

The sender module **118** provides the information obtained by the configuration reader module **116** and the file system reader **117** to the site manager **100**, and/or directly to the cloud manager **120**, using the network **150**.

The infrastructure of a cloud provider **130** may be composed of any number of physical systems, such as application servers, web servers, database servers, and the like, as well as the network infrastructure that connects the physical systems and provides network access. Examples of a cloud provider **130** include AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS), RACKSPACE, WINDOWS AZURE, and GOOGLE COMPUTE ENGINE.

The cloud provider **130** can simulate a physical machine by launching an instance of a virtual machine constructed based on a cloud provider-specific machine image description. The cloud machine image consists of the property description that describes the computing characteristics of the virtual machine to be launched, such as memory size, and the storage configuration that includes the number and size of the virtual storage devices and the locations of replicated data from the source file systems **114**.

Thus, the cloud provider **130** may host an enterprise-based application of an enterprise **105** by launching for each relevant source system **110** in the enterprise **105**, a virtual machine instance **137** that runs a cloud machine image **128** corresponding to the source system **110**. The set of virtual machine instances **137** in cloud provider **130** replicates the interconnection relationship of the source systems **110** and the operational objectives of the enterprise **105**.

Some aspects of the environment of the cloud provider **130** will differ from those of the enterprise **105**. For example, the cloud provider **130** may offer its users a choice of some set of predetermined operating system types and versions, such as CENTOS 5.3, CENTOS 5.6, UBUNTU 12.04, WINDOWS 2008, WINDOWS 2012, and the like, and these types/versions may differ from the types/versions deployed on the source systems **110** of the enterprise **105**. To mitigate the differences, the cloud manager **120**, based on the original operating system of the source system **110**, generates an operating system image which is supported by the cloud provider **130** by modifying the replicated file system **124**.

Further, the cloud provider **130** will have its own set of public network addresses (e.g., IP addresses) that it allocates to the enterprise-based applications that it hosts. These network addresses will differ from the public network addresses used by the enterprise **105**.

The various source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** may also use devices with names that differ from those on the cloud provider **130**, such as a device named "sda1" on a source system **110**, and "xvdf1" on the cloud provider **130**.

The site manager **100** (or the information provider **115**) and the cloud manager **120** communicate to generate appropriately-modified representations of the source systems **110** on the cloud provider **130**. This replicates the enterprise-based application (achieved by the collective operation of the source systems **110**) on the cloud provider **130**. The site manager **100** and the cloud manager **120** are now described in greater detail.

In one embodiment, the site manager **100** is implemented using a virtual machine. For example, one or more source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** might have hypervisors (e.g., ESX or FUSION by VMWARE) installed, in which case the site manager **100** could be implemented with a machine image created for, and executed by, those hypervisors. In another embodiment, the site manager **100** is implemented as a machine image created for, and executed by, a virtual machine of the cloud provider **130**. In another embodiment, the site manager **100** is a physical machine accessible via the network **150**. Thus, the location of the site manager **100** with respect to the enterprise **105** can differ in different embodiments, and may (but need not) be within either the enterprise **105** or the cloud provider **130**. For the sake of simplicity, however, the site manager **100** is depicted in FIG. **1** as being an entity separate from the enterprise **105** and the cloud provider **130**. Regardless of the location of the site manager **100**, in embodiments in which the site manager **100** is used, the information provider module **115** of a source system **110** creates a network connection with the site manager when providing information about the source system.

In one embodiment, the cloud manager **120** is implemented as a machine image created for, and executed by, the virtual machine of the cloud provider **130**. In such an embodiment, the cloud manager **120** executes within the cloud provider **130**, although for the purposes of simplicity the cloud manager is depicted in FIG. **1** as being logically separate from the cloud provider **130**.

The cloud manager **120** comprises a receiver module **121**, a file database **122**, configuration information **123**, file systems **124**, a customization module **126**, a cloud image generation module **127**, cloud machine images **128**, and a cloning module **129**.

The receiver module **121** receives the configuration information and file system data sent by the site manager **100** (or sent directly by the sender module **118**) for the various source systems **110** and stores them locally as configuration information **123** and file system data **124**. The file system data **124** thus correspond to the file systems **114** of the source systems **110** on the enterprise **105**.

The file database **122** stores different sets of baseline operating systems for different cloud providers **130**. A baseline operating system stored in the file database **122** includes driver files, boot files, and the like. The file database **122** may further store the additional files themselves. As an illustrative example simplified for purposes of clarity, Table 1 below illustrates several different LINUX operating systems of different distributions (i.e., CENTOS and UBUNTU) and several different WINDOWS operating systems (i.e., Windows 2008 and 2012), and the corresponding baseline operating system files which are stored in the file database **122** and for use by different cloud providers **130**, as well as a cloud provider (i.e. AWS and AZURE) for each.

TABLE 1

Source OS/version	Cloud provider	Files required
CentOS 5.3	AWS	A, B, D
CentOS 5.5	AZURE	A, D
CentOS 5.6	AWS	A
Ubuntu 12.04	AWS	A, B, C
Ubuntu 12.10	AWS	A, B
Windows 2008	AWS	W, X, Z
Windows 2008	AZURE	W, X, Y
Windows 2012	AWS	X, Z
. . .	. . .	. . .

For each <operating system, version, cloud provider> tuple, there is a list of kernel files required to be added to the environment of the cloud provider **130**, reflecting, for example, that those kernel files are needed to run software on the cloud provider, yet are not provided by the designated operating system and version. For example, referring to the example of Table 1, the <CentOS, 5.3, AWS> tuple has a corresponding set of kernel files {A, B, D}, reflecting, perhaps, that CentOS 5.3 lacks kernel files A, B, and D, which are necessary for the enterprise-based application to function within the hosting environment of AWS.

Note that although to simplify the example of Table 1 a single-letter identifier such as 'A' has been used, in practice concrete kernel file identifiers would be listed, such as full pathnames of files for the kernel files. It is further appreciated that the file database **122** need not represent information in tabular form, as in the example; rather, many data structures, such as trees, may provide an efficient implementation and may also be used.

It is additionally appreciated that certain information may be added to, or omitted from, that shown in Table 1. For example, in an embodiment solely directed to a particular cloud provider **130**, there need not be a "Cloud provider" element in the table, since the identity of the cloud provider is implicit and fixed.

The customization module **126** customizes the file system data **124** obtained from the source system **110** in order to allow the enterprise-based application to properly function in the environment provided by the cloud provider **130**. Specifically, in one embodiment the customization module **126** performs driver injection and image customization, and also creates a boot image suitable for the cloud provider **130**. These operations are now explained in more detail.

(A) Kernel File Injection

The source systems **110** might be lacking in certain drivers or other files associated with the operating system kernel and required for the application to function properly on the cloud provider **130**. Accordingly, the cloud customization module **126** performs kernel file injection (see step **375** of FIG. **3**) so that the cloud machine images **128** have all the required kernel files.

In one embodiment, kernel file injection is accomplished by identifying relevant kernel files through comparison of the operating system type and version of the source system **110** with the cloud provider **130** that is to be used to host the enterprise-based application. The file database **122** can be used for this purpose. For example, referring again to the simplified example of Table 1, above, if the enterprise-based application were using CENTOS v. 5.3, and were intended to be hosted on AWS, then kernel files A, B, and D would be added to the file system data **124**.

(B) Image Customization

Image customization involves analyzing and modifying the contents of existing files obtained from the source system **110**. The image customization includes file system mounting customization, hostname and network address mapping customization, and network address allocation customization, each of which is now described in more detail.

(i) File System Mounting Customization

The source systems **110** and the cloud provider **130** may use different names to address the underlying storage devices. Such device names can be used in the file system mount table file to reference the file systems which reside on the named storage devices. For example, the primary drive on a web server of a given source system **110** might be named "sda1", whereas the primary drive of the environment provided by the cloud provider **130** might be named "xvdf1". Thus, an attempt to mount a file system using the device name "sda1" as a reference will fail in the cloud provider **130**, since the storage device name has changed to "xvda1" in the cloud provider **130**.

Accordingly, the customization module **126** customizes a mount table file for the given source system **110**. For example, the mount table file for a LINUX operating system might be the file /etc/fstab. As a specific example, the file /etc/fstab on the source system **110** might contain the entry:

/dev/sda1/ext3

which specifies that one ext3 typed file system, which resides in storage device "/dev/sda1", should be mounted at the location "/" in the Linux system. As noted, the mount described by this line would lead to incorrect results within the cloud provider **130** if the cloud provider's storage drive were named "xvdf1", rather than "sda1" as in the source system **110**.

In order to rectify this problem, the customization module **126** instead determines, for each file system of the source system **110**, a unique ID corresponding to that file system. For example, in one embodiment the unique ID, which is stored in the metadata of the file system **114** on the source system **110**, is retrieved and reported to cloud manager **120**. The cloud manager **120** saves this unique ID into the metadata of the file system **124**, and replaces the device name with this unique ID in the mount table file. For example, for the device named "/dev/sda1" of a given source system **110**, the customization module **126** could retrieve the hexadecimal string "f6f514a9-2954-473c-9a47-664a4d4eb0d4" of the file system **114** from configuration information **123** as reported by information provider **115** on the source system **110**. The customization module **126** could then write the hexadecimal string into the metadata for the file system **124** and also modify the entry of the file /etc/fstab from

/dev/sda1/ext3

to

UUID=f6f514a9-2954-473c-9a47-664a4d4eb0d4/ext3

which has the effect of mounting a file system, whose unique ID is "f6f514a9-,2954-473c-9a47-664a4d4eb0d4", at the root directory of a Linux system. Since the unique ID for the file system **114** has been written into the file system **124**, as well as into the mount table file /etc/fstab, a Linux system can properly identify the file system, as referenced in the mount table file, to perform a file system mounting operation, regardless the name change of the underlying storage device. In another embodiment, the unique ID may be randomly generated, rather than read from the metadata of the file system **114**.

(ii) Hostname and Network Address Mapping Customization

A static hostname-to-network address mapping specifies logical host names that will be associated with network addresses such as Internet protocol (IP) addresses. (For example, for a LINUX operating system, the file /etc/hosts might specify the hostname-to-network address mapping.) The static hostname-to-network address mapping provides appropriate mappings between host names and network addresses even if the local server designed for that purpose (e.g., a DNS server) is not currently available. Thus, network communications using hostnames specified by the hostname-to-network address mappings could continue properly, even if the local DNS server had malfunctioned, for example.

Many enterprise applications make reference to network addresses of the various source systems **110** associated with the application, e.g., in application configuration files, many of which are not documented or otherwise explained. Thus, it is tedious and error-prone to attempt to locate and revise these network addresses (e.g., in the application configuration riles) when migrating an enterprise-based application from an enterprise **105** to a cloud provider **130**. Retaining the network addresses used in the enterprise **105**, rather than updating the network addresses to those made available by the network provider, avoids this difficulty.

The customization module **126** generates a static hostname-to-network address mapping based on the source systems **110** identified by the system identification module **119**. That is, for each identified system, the customization module **126** determines its IP address and its hostname, e.g., using operating system functionality such as the "hostname" command or system call. The system customization module **126** also generates variants of the hostname. For example, the system customization module **126** may obtain the hostname in its fully qualified form and generate variants by stripping away the domains, e.g., starting with the fully qualified hostname "machine.company.corp" and forming simplified variant hostnames "machine.company" and "machine". As a more detailed example, and referring ahead to FIG. **4**A, assuming that the identified four source systems **416**A-**416**D were found to have hostnames sugar2-ws1.company.corp, sugar2-ws1.company.corp, sugar2-lb-.company.corp, and sugar2-db.company.corp and corresponding IP addresses 198.101.232.7, 198.101.232.200, 198.101.232.118, and 198.101.232.219, the customization module **126** might generate the following mappings:

127.0.0.1 localhost.localdomain localhost

198.101.232.7 sugar2-ws1.company.corp sugar2-ws1

198.101.232.200 sugar2-ws2.COMPANY.CORP sugar2-ws2

198.101.232.118 sugar2-db.COMPANY.CORP sugar2-db

198.101.232.219 sugar2-lb-node.COMPANY.CORP sugar2-lb-node

The line "198.101.232.7 sugar2-ws1.company.corp sugar2-ws1" indicates, for example, that the fully-qualified hostname "sugar2-ws1.company.corp", and the shortened hostname "sugar2-ws1", are both aliases for the IP address "198.101.232.7." The generated mappings are then stored in a known address-hostname mapping file, such as the /etc/hosts file in the LINUX operating system.

(iii) Network Address Allocation Customization

The cloud provider **130** may require that virtual machine instance **137** dynamically obtain its network (e.g., IP) addresses, rather than using static address assignments, in order to more effectively manage its network infrastructure. Thus, in one embodiment the customization module **126** modifies the operating system settings stored in the file system data **124** and obtained from the source system **110** so as to enable dynamic address allocation. Thus, in one embodiment the customization module **126** changes, for the operating system settings corresponding to each source system **110**, any static network address allocations to use the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP). More specifically, since operating system settings such as network address allocation are stored within the corresponding file system, the customization module **126** modifies the file systems **124** stored by the cloud manager **120** to reflect the change.

(C) Boot Image Creation

The customization module **126** generates a cloud boot file system in the file systems defined by the file system data **124**, e.g., by creating a new boot volume mapped to a /boot directory in the file systems at boot time.

If operating system versions of the source systems **110** are sufficiently old, they may not be able to properly boot up a virtual machine instance **137** on the cloud provider **130**. Thus, in one embodiment the customization module **126** uses the version of the operating system provided by the cloud provider **130** to identify files that should be in the cloud boot file system. For example, if the operating system of one of the source systems **110** is before a particular known version (e.g., version 6.0 of CENTOS), then a particular given set of files is used (e.g., the versions of /boot/vmlinuz kernel, /boot/initrd, and the /boot/grub/menu.lst boot loader file that are stored within the file database **122**); otherwise, the files already within the/boot directory from the source system **110** are used. In one embodiment, the file database **122** is used to determine which boot files are required, given a particular source operating system, operating system version, and cloud provider.

The customization module **126** further configures a boot loader for the application on the cloud provider **130**. For example, for a LINUX system and the GRUB boot loader, the boot loader configuration file could be the file grub.conf within the grub/subfolder of the cloud boot file system. In one embodiment, the customization module **126** modifies the boot loader configuration file from the source system **110** to boot from the customized root file system described above with respect to file system mounting customization—that is, the customized root file system identified by the generated unique ID. For example, assume that the boot loader configuration file from the source system **110** contained the following line:

kernel /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.32-220.e16.x86_64 ro root=/dev/sda1 rd_NO_LUKS KEYBOARDTYPE=pc KEYTABLE=us LANG=en_US.UTF-8 nomodeset rhgb crashkernel=auto quiet rd_NO_MD quiet SYSFONT=latarcyrheb-sun16 rhgb crashkernel=auto rd_NO_LVM rd_NO_DM

The customization module **126** could modify the "root" parameter to no longer refer to the device "/dev/sda1", but rather to refer to the unique root identifier "f6f514a9-2954-473c-9a47-664a4d4eb0d4". This permits the boot loader to properly boot the system, even when the physical device on which the /boot partition resides has a different name on the source system **110** from that on the cloud provider **130**.

With the files within the file system data **124** properly configured, the cloud manager **120** generates a cloud machine image **128**.

The cloud image generation module **127** causes generation of an image of each of the relevant source systems **110** within the enterprise **105** based on the (customized) contents of the file systems **124** and on the configuration information **123**, and the resulting set of images is stored in the cloud machine images repository **128**. For example, if the cloud provider **130** is AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS), the corresponding cloud machine images **128** are AMAZON Machine Image (AMI) objects.

In one embodiment, the cloud image generation module **127** generates an image using an application programming interface (API) of the cloud provider **130**. For example, if the cloud provider is AMAZON WEB SERVICES, the generation of an image named "My_AMI" might be requested using the URL https://ec2.amazonaws.com/?Action=RegisterImage&RootDeviceName=/dev/sda1&BlockDeviceMapping.1.DeviceName=/dev/sda1&Name=My_AMI&AUTHPARAMS.

As a result, each relevant source system **110** of the enterprise **105** has a corresponding cloud machine image **128** registered with, and stored on, the cloud provider **130**.

The cloning module **129** can be used to generate instances (also referred to as "clones") of each application. Multiple instances of virtual machines running the same cloud machine images can be created to allow multiple instances of the enterprise application to be run independently by different users. Thus, for example, multiple application testers could be given different independent instances of the application to test, merely by requesting the creation of a new instance for each tester. Similarly, separate production and testing systems could be created by generating separate instances of the application, one for production and one for staging or testing (for example).

More specifically, when the cloning module **129** receives a request to create a clone of an application, the cloning module identifies the set of cloud machine images **128** corresponding to the source systems **110** for the enterprise **105** embodying the application. The cloning module **129** then requests the cloud provider **130** to launch the identified cloud machine images **128** into the virtual machine instances **137**. In one embodiment, each identified cloud machine image **128** is launched in a separate virtual machine instance **137**. Some cloud providers **130** create a single virtual private networking environment for all the virtual machine instances associated with the application and assign local IP address to each virtual machine instance in the virtual private networking environment.

The instance creation may be customized based on, for example, additional data known about the relevant source systems **110**. For example, referring ahead to the user interface of FIG. **4**A, some source systems **110** may be designated as private and others as public, with public systems having internet accessible IP addresses assigned in addition to their local IP addresses.

Data Flow

FIG. **2** illustrates the data flow that takes place when generating the cloud machine images **128** for a source system **110** using the components of FIG. **1**, according to one embodiment.

The metadata and content of the file systems **114** of the source system **110** are provided to the customization module **126**, which generates the customized file systems **124** of the cloud manager **120**. The customization module **126** also controls injection of files of the file database **122** of the cloud manager **120** into the customized file systems **124** to ensure that the image of the source system **110** will have the necessary kernel files (e.g., drivers and libraries) needed to function properly on the cloud provider **130**. Additionally, configuration information **123** is obtained from the source system **110**.

The cloud image generation module **127** then produces, for the source system **110**, a corresponding cloud machine image **128**, based both on the customized file systems **124** and on the configuration information **123**.

This process is repeated for each source system **110** determined (e.g., at least in part by the system identification module **119**) to be associated with the enterprise-based application.

System Interactions

FIG. **3** illustrates the interactions that take place between the source system **110**, the site manager **100**, the cloud manager **120**, and the cloud provider **130** when generating a cloud machine image **128** allowing an enterprise-based application to be hosted by the cloud provider, according to one embodiment.

Initial Data Gathering

As discussed above, the site manager **100** obtains information from the source systems **110**, including configuration information and data from the file systems **114**. The site manager **100** further customizes the enterprise-based application (as embodied in the source systems **110**) so that it will function properly on the cloud provider **130**. Additionally, the site manager **100** may further monitor any changes to the source system **110**, updating the file systems **124** to reflect the changes.

Specifically, the site manager **100** obtains **305** configuration information from the source system **110**, as discussed above with respect to the configuration reader module **116** of FIG. **1**. The site manager **100** provides **310** the obtained configuration information to the cloud manager **120**, which stores **315** the configuration information as configuration information **123**.

The cloud manager **120** uses the configuration information to initialize **320** the file systems on the cloud manager **120**. (As noted above, in some embodiments the cloud manager **120** and its file systems **124** are physically stored within storage of the cloud provider **130**.) Specifically, for every source file system **114** for which file system configuration information was obtained, the cloud manager **120** establishes a corresponding file system **124** as specified by the file system configuration information, e.g., by requesting the cloud provider **130** to provide a storage volume of the given type and having the given capacity. The cloud manager **120** then formats the storage volume into a given typed file system as reported from configuration information **123** regarding to the file system **114** on source system **110**. This newly formatted file system is the file system **124**, to which the action of providing **330** file system data (below) will transfer data.

In addition to obtaining configuration information, such as file system type and capacity, the site manager **100** also obtains **325** file system data—that is, the data stored by the file system—as described above with respect to the file system reader module **117** of FIG. **1**. The site manager **100** provides **330** the obtained file system data to the cloud manager **120**. The cloud manager **120** replicates **335** the file systems from the source system **110** by writing the file system data provided in step **330** into the file systems initialized at step **320**. In one embodiment, the cloud manager **120** maintains a mapping relationship between each file system **114** of the source system **110** and the location of its corresponding file system **124** on cloud manager **120**. Thus, the file system data from one file system **114**, which arrives at step **330**, will be placed at correct file system **124** in step **335**.

File System Monitoring and Updating

The authors of the enterprise-based application represented by the source systems **110** may modify the enterprise-based application after the initial replication of steps **325**-**335**. In order to properly reflect any such modifications, the site manager **100** (or the information provider **115**) may further monitor the file systems **114** of the source systems **110** and propagate those changes to the corresponding file systems created on the cloud provider **130**. In one embodiment, the file system reader **117** is configured to identify any changes to the file systems of the individual systems within the source system **110** and to provide **350** an indication of the changes to the cloud manager **120**, which then causes corresponding modifications to the corresponding file systems of the cloud provider **130**, thereby updating **355** the file systems. The file system reader **117** can identify the changes by (for example) periodically reading the file allocation tables of the different file systems and noting any file modification dates more recent than those previously noted. Changes to a file may be specified by the identifier of the file (e.g., file system ID and full pathname within the file system) and an indication that the file was changed, along with the complete data of the changed file (or a delta value that expresses the particular change made). Similarly, the addition of a new file may be specified by the identifier of the new file, an indication that the file was added, and all the data of the new file, and the deletion of a file may be specified by the identifier of the deleted file and an indication that the file was deleted.

As a result of the file system updating **355**, the file systems on the cloud provider **130** are kept consistent with those on the source system **110**. Thus, if the source systems **110** change, corresponding changes are reflected on in the cloud manager and/or the cloud provider **130**.

Customization

The cloud manager **120** further customizes the data obtained from the source system **110** in order to allow the enterprise-based application to properly function in the environment provided by the cloud provider **130**. Specifically, the cloud manager **120** performs kernel file injection **375** and image customization **380**, and also creates **385** a boot image suitable for the cloud provider **130**, as described above with respect to the customization module **126**.

Cloning

The cloud manager **120** further can generate **390** cloud machine images **128** corresponding to the different source system **110**, one cloud machine image per source system, as described above with respect to the cloud image generation module **127**. The cloud manager **120** can also create 395 clones of the enterprise application by requesting the cloud provider **130** to launch the cloud machine images into virtual machine instances **137**. Each clone operates independently of the others, so different users may independently operate the different clones as if they each constituted a separate enterprise **105**.

User Interfaces

FIGS. **4A**-**4B** respectively illustrate example graphical user interfaces used in the process of replicating an enterprise-based application on a cloud provider and creating instances of that application, according to one embodiment.

FIG. **4**A illustrates a user interface **400** used by an employee or other authorized member of the enterprise **105** to identity the particular source systems **110** within the enterprise that make up the enterprise-based application, as well as specifying attributes of those source systems that are relevant to the replication of the enterprise-based application on the cloud provider **130**.

An enterprise-based application made up of a set of source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** is assigned the name in text area **405** ("My App"), and the source systems to be replicated within the cloud provider **130** are depicted in the system area **415** of the user interface.

In the embodiment of FIG. **4**A, the source systems are partitioned into private systems and public systems, respectively depicted in areas **420**A and **420**B, with source systems **416**A, **416**B, and **416**D being private systems, and source system **416**C being a public system. The source systems **110** placed in the private systems group **420**A will be made non-accessible to outside systems when the enterprise-based application is launched on the cloud provider **130**, whereas the systems of the public systems group **420**B will be accessible. (To control accessibility, the private systems **420**A may be assigned IP addresses from a private IP address range, for example, and the public systems **420**B may be assigned IP addresses from a non-private IP address range.)

The source systems **110** may further be partitioned based on functionality. For example, in FIG. **4**A the source systems **110** are partitioned based on whether they represent database servers, with systems in partitions **425**A and **425**B representing database servers, and those in other areas representing non-database servers. The source systems **110** may then be treated differently based on their identified functionality. For example, referring again to FIG. **3**, source systems **110** identified as being database servers may be treated differently when providing file system data during steps **330** or **350** in order to provide the transactional properties necessary to achieve database data integrity, such as by copying data using a database-specific API.

In one embodiment, the user interface **400** initially displays source systems **110** identified by the system identification module **119** of FIG. **1**. The user of the user interface **400** may then use the interface to move the systems into the appropriate area of the user interface, thereby specifying their properties (e.g., private/public visibility, or database/non-database functionality). The user may also select control **435** to request the system identification module **119** to attempt to discover additional source systems **110** within the enterprise **105**, or controls such as Add button **417** to manually add a source system to one of the groups (e.g., group **420**A). Identified source systems may also be moved into group **430** to be removed from the enterprise-based application, and will accordingly not be replicated on the cloud provider **130**.

In one embodiment, application architectural components may also be added via the user interface **400**. For example, checkbox **410** allows the user to specify whether the enterprise-based application should use a load balancer. Since the checkbox **410** has been enabled in the user interface **400** of FIG. **4**, a load balancer system **416**C is inserted within the public group **420**B.

Once the enterprise-based application has been made available on the cloud provider **130** by replicating the source systems **110** of the enterprise **105** (e.g., those indicated in FIG. **4**A), the application may be launched by creating an instance (also referred to as a "clone") of the replicated source systems **110**. As noted, multiple independent sets of instances of the replicated source systems may be created.

FIG. **4**B illustrates a user interface **450** used by an employee or other authorized member of the enterprise **105** to create instances of an enterprise-based application. The application list **455** contains the names of application configurations (corresponding to enterprises **105**) that a user has replicated on the cloud provider **130**. For each such application, the corresponding clone button **460** allows a user to request that a new instance of the application be created, as described above with respect to the cloning module **129**. The delete button **461** allows a user to remove the replicated application (i.e., the cloud machine images **128**) from the cloud provider **130**.

The add new application button **465** allows creation of a new configuration of the application, corresponding to a different set of source systems **110**, or different properties for the same systems. Referring again to FIG. **4**A, for example, a new, separate configuration of the application could be created by adding an additional web server system within the private group **420**A, or by removing the load balancer.

Application information area **470** summarizes information about the replicated applications of the user, such as the identity of the cloud provider **130** used to host the applications, and the various statuses of replicated applications for which instances have been created (e.g., which are running, which have been terminated, etc.). The applications for which instances have been created may be further managed. For example, the instances can be suspended, terminated, resumed, and the like.

Additional Considerations

Reference in the specification to "one embodiment" or to "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiments is included in at least one embodiment. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment.

In this description, the term "module" refers to computational logic for providing the specified functionality. A module can be implemented in hardware, firmware, and/or software. It will be understood that the named modules described herein represent one embodiment, and other embodiments may include other modules. In addition, other embodiments may lack modules described herein and/or distribute the described functionality among the modules in a different manner. Additionally, the functionalities attributed to more than one module can be incorporated into a single module. Where the modules described herein are implemented as software, the module can be implemented as a standalone program, but can also be implemented through other means, for example as part of a larger program, as a plurality of separate programs, or as one or more statically or dynamically linked libraries. In any of these software implementations, the modules are stored on the computer readable persistent storage devices of a system, loaded into memory, and executed by the one or more processors of the system's computers.

The operations herein may also be performed by an apparatus. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may comprise a general-purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium, such as, but is not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, magnetic-optical disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs), EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), or any type of media suitable for storing electronic instructions, and each coupled to a computer system bus. Furthermore, the computers referred to in the specification may include a single processor or may be architectures employing multiple processor designs for increased computing capability.

The algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general-purpose systems may also be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below. In addition, the present invention is not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the present invention as described herein, and any references below to specific languages are provided for disclosure of enablement and best mode of the present invention.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment and several alternate embodiments, it will be understood by persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and details can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Finally, it should be noted that the language used in the specification has been principally selected for readability and instructional purposes, and may not have been selected to delineate or circumscribe the inventive subject matter. Accordingly, the disclosure of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method comprising:

for at least one source system of a plurality of source systems of an enterprise system that together provide an enterprise-based computer software application to users:

obtaining configuration information associated with the source system;

obtaining file system information describing one or more file systems of the source system, a first one of the file systems storing operating system files in a boot directory;

replicating the file systems and files of the file systems within a cloud manager system located remotely from the enterprise system, using the obtained file system information;

identifying, based on a version of an operating system of the source system, a set of boot files;

replacing operating system files in the boot directory of the first one of the replicated file systems with the identified set of boot files;

causing generation of an image of the source system using the obtained configuration information and the replaced files in the boot directory of the replicated file system, the generated image executable within a virtual machine of a cloud provider system located remotely from the enterprise system;

providing a user interface comprising graphical depictions of a plurality of the source systems of the enterprise and a graphical distinction between public and private systems;

identifying the plurality of source systems based at least in part on interactions of users with the graphical depictions of the provided user interface; and

modifying operating system settings stored within the plurality of source systems that control network visibility, based on user placement of the depictions of the source systems with respect to the graphical distinction.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising identifying the plurality of source systems at least in part by analyzing communication patterns of source systems within the enterprise system.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising:

generating a unique identifier for the first one of the file systems;

adding the unique identifier to metadata of the first one of the file systems; and

modifying, within the replicated first one of the file systems, a mount table file, the modification of the mount file table comprising:

identifying an entry of the mount table file corresponding to the first one of the file systems, and

modifying the entry to include the unique identifier.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising modifying, within the replicated first one of the file systems, a boot loader configuration file to specify booting from a file system corresponding to the generated unique identifier.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising:

for at least one of the plurality of source systems:

determining an internet protocol (IP) address and hostname of the source system;

generating a mapping between the IP address and the hostname; and

storing the generated mapping within an address-hostname mapping file of one of the replicated file systems.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of requests to execute the enterprise-based application on the cloud provider system;

for each of the plurality of requests, causing the cloud provider system to execute the images generated for the plurality of source systems.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, wherein the user interface further comprises a graphical distinction between database servers and non-database servers, the method further comprising modifying operating system settings stored within the plurality of source systems that control network visibility, based on user placement of the depictions of the source systems with respect to the graphical distinction between database servers and non-database servers.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, wherein the user interface further comprises a user interface control indicating whether or not to include a load balancer, the method further comprising causing generation of an image of a load balancer responsive to the user interface control indicating to include a load balancer.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim **1**, further comprising comparing a target operating system of a cloud provider to the operating system of the source system, wherein the set of boot files is identified at least in part based on the comparing.

10. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing instructions executable by a processor, the instructions comprising:

instructions for, for at least one source system of a plurality of source systems of an enterprise system that together provide an enterprise-based computer software application to users:

obtaining configuration information associated with the source system;

obtaining file system information describing one or more file systems of the source system, a first one of the file systems storing operating system files in a boot directory;

replicating the file systems and files of the file systems within a cloud manager system located remotely from the enterprise system, using the obtained file system information;

identifying, based on a version of an operating system of the source system, a set of boot files;

replacing operating system files in the boot directory of the first one of the replicated file systems with the identified set of boot files; and

causing generation of an image of the source system using the obtained configuration information and the replaced files in the boot directory of the replicated file system, the generated image executable within a virtual machine of a cloud provider system located remotely from the enterprise system;

providing a user interface comprising graphical depictions of a plurality of the source systems of the enterprise and a graphical distinction between public and private systems;

identifying the plurality of source systems based at least in part on interactions of users with the graphical depictions of the provided user interface; and

modifying operating system settings stored within the plurality of source systems that control network visibility, based on user placement of the depictions of the source systems with respect to the graphical distinction.

11. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim **10**, the instructions further comprising identifying the plurality of source systems at least in part by analyzing communication patterns of source systems within the enterprise system.

12. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim **10**, the instructions further comprising:

instructions for generating a unique identifier for the first one of the file systems;

instructions for adding the unique identifier to metadata of the first one of the file systems; and

instructions for modifying, within the replicated first one of the file systems, a mount table file, the modification of the mount file table comprising:

identifying an entry of the mount table file corresponding to the first one of the file systems, and

modifying the entry to include the unique identifier.

13. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim **10**, the instructions further comprising modifying, within the replicated first one of the file systems, a boot loader configuration file to specify booting from a file system corresponding to the generated unique identifier.

14. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim **10**, the instructions further comprising:

instructions for, for at least one of the plurality of source systems:

determining an internet protocol (IP) address and hostname of the source system;

generating a mapping between the IP address and the hostname; and

storing the generated mapping within an address-hostname mapping file of one of the replicated file systems.

15. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim **10**, the instructions further comprising:

instructions for receiving a plurality of requests to execute the enterprise-based application on the cloud provider system;

instructions for, for each of the plurality of requests, causing the cloud provider system to execute the images generated for the plurality of source systems.

16. A computer system comprising:

a computer processor; and

a computer program executable by the computer processor, the computer program comprising instructions for, for at least one source system of a plurality of source systems of an enterprise system that together provide an enterprise-based computer software application to users:

obtaining configuration information associated with the source system;

obtaining file system information describing one or more file systems of the source system, a first one of the file systems storing operating system files in a boot directory;

replicating the file systems and files of the file systems within a cloud manager system located remotely from the enterprise system, using the obtained file system information;

identifying, based on a version of an operating system of the source system, a set of boot files;

replacing operating system files in the boot directory of the first one of the replicated file systems with the identified set of boot files; and

causing generation of an image of the source system using the obtained configuration information and the replaced files in the boot directory of the replicated file system, the generated image executable within a virtual machine of a cloud provider system located remotely from the enterprise system;

providing a user interface comprising graphical depictions of a plurality of the source systems of the enterprise and a graphical distinction between public and private systems;

identifying the plurality of source systems based at least in part on interactions of users with the graphical depictions of the provided user interface; and

modifying operating system settings stored within the plurality of source systems that control network visibility, based on user placement of the depictions of the source systems with respect to the graphical distinction.

17. The system of claim **16**, the computer program instructions further for modifying, within the replicated first one of the file systems, a boot loader configuration file to specify booting from a file system corresponding to the generated unique identifier.

18. The system of claim **16**, the computer program instructions further for, for at least one of the plurality of source systems:

determining an internet protocol (IP) address and hostname of the source system;

generating a mapping between the IP address and the hostname; and

storing the generated mapping within an address-hostname mapping file of one of the replicated file systems.

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